

How Do I Report Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child abuse and neglect are serious issues that require immediate action. If you have witnessed or have knowledge of a child being abused or neglected you should report the circumstances to your local Child Protective Services agency or your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible. In cases when you are uncertain if the circumstances fit the legal definition of child abuse and/or neglect, you may call and report your observations and/or knowledge and let the agency determine how to handle the situation.

- ◆ Child in Immediate Danger: If the child is in immediate danger, dial 911.
- ◆ Verbal Reports: To file a verbal report, call your local Child Protective Services agency and describe the situation, the names, ages and location of the children, and the name and relationship (to the child/ren) of the person you suspect as the perpetrator of the abuse or neglect.

Find your local [Child Protective Services Agency](#)

- ◆ Mandated Reporters: If you are a Mandated Reporter, make a verbal report to the local Child Protective Services Agency as soon as you have knowledge of the abuse and/or neglect. File a written report within 36 hours of your verbal report. To file the written report, you will use the “Suspected Child Abuse Report” Form SS 8572 (from the California Department of Justice).

If a blank form is not available, you may request a form from the agency you call to make the verbal report; or by writing to:

California Department of Justice
Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information
P.O. Box 90317
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170

For additional information:

- ◆ www.capcsac.org/childabuse/reporting.html
Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento,
“*About Child Abuse: How to Make a Report of Child Abuse in California*”
- ◆ www.caag.state.ca.us/cvpc/main_pub_videos.html
California Attorney General,
Publications including - “*Child Abuse*” & “*Child Abuse Prevention Handbook*”